

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/004774

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1, 6-11 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* 2, 3, 3/1, 4, 5 _____ received by this Authority on 27.01.2005
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 2, 4, 6 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1, 3 _____ received by this Authority on 27.01.2005
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets fig. 1-5 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☒ the claims, nos. 5 _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-4, 6	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-4, 6	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-4, 6	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: JP 2002-149150 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 24 May 2002, paragraphs [0036] to [0040] and [0045] to [0055], and fig. 2, 3 and 5

Document 2: JP 2002-366128 A (Denso Corp.), 20 December 2002, paragraph [0019]

Document 3: JP 11-352946 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 24 December 1999, paragraphs [0015] and [0016], and fig. 1 & US 6335764 B1, column 3, line 55 to column 4, line 26 and fig. 1

The invention that is set forth in claims 1 to 4 and 6, and the feature wherein "the abovementioned sets of image data that are input serially and the abovementioned sets of α blending processed image data that have been stored in the data storage unit are subjected to a vertical filtering process" in particular, are not disclosed in any of the documents that are cited in the international search report, and would not have been obvious to a person skilled in the art.